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REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1, 7-8, 11, and 13-18 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

In particular, the Examiner objected to the term "the registration" for insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants amend the term to "a registration," and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-11, 13-14, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,484,196 to Maurille et al.; claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maurille et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,766,298 to Dodrill et al.; and claims 3, 7, 12, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maurille et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,782,403 to Kino et al. Applicants amend claims 1, 7-8, 11, and 13-18 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner relied upon the description of an Internet messaging system in Maurille et al. as principal disclosure of the claimed invention. The Examiner apparently relied upon the description of the display structure for the message parameters, including the "Re:" line, as alleged disclosure of the claimed feature of displaying comments and attribute data for multimedia data. The technique described in Maurille et al. only deals with text data and the cited portions of Maurille et al. do not include any disclosure on dealing with audio and video

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data. The Examiner apparently relied upon the description of MsgTimeStamp as alleged disclosure of time information for text data, and, correspondingly, asserted that Maurille et al. disclose "the text data [being] divided in terms of time." The cited portions of Maurille et al. only include, however, description of a messaging technique for displaying the messages themselves, and not any tag on each "scene" of multimedia data for including text data and exchanging comments. The messages described in Maurille et al. are only time stamped as they occur and cannot themselves be divided in terms of time.

In other words, Maurille et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, do not disclose,

"[a] multimedia cooperative work system, comprising:
generating a model of a multimedia electronic tag in which
display of a comment and attribute data thereof/comment input in
tree-shape structure is possible for each scene of multimedia data,
a registration of which is requested by an arbitrary client in a
server and which are obtained by dividing the multimedia data in
terms of time; and
exchanging comments on each scene among a plurality of
clients, including the requesting client, using the multimedia
electronic tag, thereby realizing multimedia cooperative work,
wherein
said multimedia electronic tag includes text data, and
said multimedia electronic tag is added with the multimedia
data, which includes audio data and video data," as recited in claim
1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2 and 4-5 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Maurille et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 8, 11, 13-14, and 16-17 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claims 9-10 dependent from claim 8, patentable over Maurille et al. for at least the same reasons. The Examiner cited Dodrill et al. and Kino et al. to specifically address the additional features recited in claims 3, 6-7, 12, 15, and 18, respectively. As such, the

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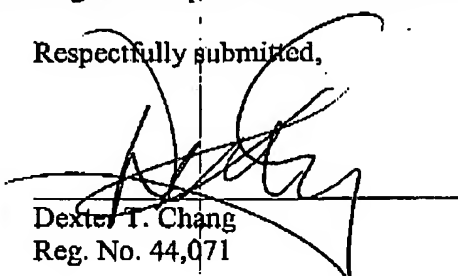
additions of these references would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Maurille et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such additions would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 6-7, 12, 15, and 18 are patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional reference made of record, but not applied, does not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether this reference is considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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